



GADSDEN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

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GADSDEN COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX

MARLON BROWN
County Manager
THORNTON J. WILLIAMS
County Attorney

2006 USDA Rural Development Community of the Year

December 2, 2008

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
9 East Jefferson Street
Quincy, Florida 32353

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board:

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my accomplishments as County Manager of Gadsden County, beginning in May 2005, but first, let me state how much of an honor it was to serve as County Manager of this beautiful and inspiring County. Gadsden County and the Board of County Commissioners will always have my complete and humble appreciation and gratitude for selecting me to be in their service, and for that, please know that I am always available to help with any issue, if needed.

When I entered this organization over three years ago I encountered many challenges that needed our immediate attention, areas that I felt would make a difference in the lives of our residents particularly related to funding and finances, technology, services we provide, transparency and our image. Today, I know that in these areas we have had both success and progress.

We took our fund balance reserves in all accounts to the statutory limit (and in some cases, beyond), obtained over \$60 million in state and federal funding through a partnership with our municipalities and with the assistance of our legislators and lobbyists, obtained several grants totaling approximately \$4 million, and was successful in the passage of the ½ cent indigent care surtax. We advanced technologically to the point where we were recognized for our efforts and we are now awaiting the installation of a fiber optic network that will enable the County to fully execute operational efficiencies that will improve communication, field work, data sharing and real time geographical information. We constructed a new library, two volunteer fire stations, and an extension to the Supervisor of Elections building, renovated three parks with another underway, and began construction on the extension of the Judicial Complex and renovation to Gadsden

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Community Hospital. We opened an Urgent Care Center to provide quality healthcare to our residents. We provided programs for our children such as G'Stars and Boys and Girls, extended the library hours, began district community meetings, and held regular employee meetings. We used billboards to positively promote the County and used several media opportunities to openly communicate the County's issues and successes. We successfully implemented the Connect CTY emergency call out system for county residents and businesses. We reached out and hosted Governor Charlie Crist, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Chief Financial Officer, Alex Sink, Department of Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson, our state legislative delegation and several of the state Department Secretaries. We received a 2006 Rural Community of the Year (USDA) Award, a Florida Association of Counties 2007 Presidential Advocacy Team Award, and a 2008 Florida City/County Management Association Community Partnership Program Excellence Award.

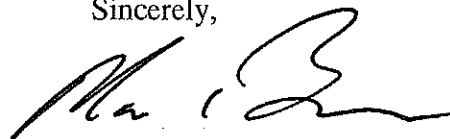
Further, during my tenure, we treated everyone with dignity and respect, and the quality of the services we provided to our residents was always above par and always in a responsive and uncomplicated manner. We can all agree that I displayed high values and integrity, and that I was ethical in my service to Gadsden County and to my profession. I volunteered my services to the boards of the Gadsden County Health Council, the Gadsden County Early Healthy Start Coalition, the Gadsden Public Agencies for Children/Shared Services Network, Florida Blueprint Commission on Juvenile Justice and the United Way of the Big Bend.

As I leave, I hope there is a mutual understanding that as a professional County Manager I have always made myself available and accessible to all Commissioners and that policies implemented by my administration were solely based on policy directives from the Board of County Commissioners.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank previous and current Commissioners for their support and confidence in me, and for providing the type of environment that encourages and expects excellence. I would like to also express my appreciation to the employees for their excellence in service.

Thank you Gadsden County, wishing you continued success and may God always shower you with His blessings!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marlon Brown', written in a cursive style.

Marlon Brown